the Gujarat High Court in this regard. Necessary action in the matter is taken by the Central Government only on receipt of such a proposal.

Filing of Annual Accounts by companies

4673. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than one lac companies have not filed their Annual Accounts for more than 2 years; and

(b) if so, what penal action under the law is being taken for default in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under section 220 of the Companies Act, 1956 the Registrars of Companies are competent to launch prosecutions against the defaulting companies. Registrars of Companies have launched 16956 prosecutions under this section.

Pending Contempt of Court cases

†4674. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Contempt of Court cases pending at present in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to review the Contempt of Courts Act;

(c) if so, whether any proposal to make the provisions of Contempt of Courts Act more stringent is under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As per available information, 55, 737 Contempt of Court cases are pending in various High Courts of the country as in December, 1999.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.